

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2344

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2008

SUICIDES BY WEAVERS

Murmu Shri Hemlal; Patil Shri Pratik Prakashbapu; Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu; Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva; Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan; Suman Shri Ramji Lal; Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether weavers have reportedly committed suicide in some States including Andhra Pradesh, recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the average annual income of weavers in the country, State-wise;
- (c) whether the State Governments and the other institutions have urged the Union Government to provide a debt relief/waiver package to the States for clearing the debts of weavers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto indicating the funds sought and sanctioned by the Union Government;
- (e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to improve the earning condition of weavers and prevent recurrence of such incidents; and
- (f) the number of weavers benefited by the welfare schemes being run by the Union Government presently, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Only the following States have reported suicides by weavers during the period April, 2007 to September, 2008:-

State	No. of weavers
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Andhra Pradesh	38
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Kerala	2
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Orissa	1
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Uttar Pradesh	2
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The reasons for suicide deaths are reported to be financial problem, chronic illness and addiction to country liquor etc. The minimum wage and average wage differ from State to State and cluster to cluster. While minimum wage is prescribed by State Govt., the average wage of the cluster depends on factors like technology level, loom productivity, market trend and availability of labour.

(c) & (d): The Government has not received any such demand from the State Governments/Institutions. However, the Ministry has constituted a High level Committee headed by MD, NABARD to look into the problems of high cost of working capital and choking of credit lines in the handloom sector. The Financial Package for Handloom Sector worth Rs.2600 crore has been proposed for approval. This financial package will provide:-

(i) Financing the credit needs of handloom weavers/societies at 7% rate of interest with interest subvention to NABARD and banks from Government of India.

(ii) Waiver of overdue loans and interest in respect of Handloom Weavers/PWCs/Apex Societies.

(e): Government of India is implementing a number of schemes to enhance production, productivity, efficiency and enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers by upgrading their skill with infrastructural input and marketing support during the 11th Five Year Plan.

HANDLOOM SECTOR

(i) Integrated Handloom Development Scheme

(ii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme

(iii) Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme

(v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme

POWERLOOM SECTOR

(i) Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Sector Development

(ii) Modified Group Workshed Scheme

(iii) Group Insurance Scheme to the powerloom workers

(iv) 20% Credit Linked Capital Subsidy

The Government has implemented 20% Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme under the Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (TUFS), especially in order to help the Decentralised Powerloom Sector. The scheme is applicable to powerlooms in SSI sector only.

(f): The Government is implementing the Group Insurance Scheme for powerloom workers, in association with LIC from 1st July 2003. The scheme was modified from 1st January 2008 onwards with increased benefits. The Scheme is applicable to all the States. The workers enrolled under the Scheme during the last three years are as under:

Year	No. of workers enrolled
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2005 - 06	96,396
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2006 - 07	94,051
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2007 - 08	1,21,937
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State-wise number of handloom weavers benefited by the welfare schemes being run by the Office of the Development Commissioner, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India are at Annexure.